

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13

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R 301400Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 980

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

USUN NEW YORK 513

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1995

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV PORG ES KS KN UNGA

SUBJ: NORTH KOREAN MISSION VISITS EL SALVADOR

1. A NORTH KOREAN PARLIAMENTARY MISSION, COMPOSED OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTH KOREAN POPULAR ASSEMBLY AND TWO INTERPRETERS, VISITED EL SALVADOR ON APRIL 28-29. APPARENTLY ON A SWING THROUGH THE REGION TO DEFINE AND SOLICIT SUPPORT FOR THEIR COUNTRY'S OBJECTIVES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, THE DELEGATION WAS HOSTED BY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SALVADORAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WAS PROMINENT AND STRAIGHT. THE KOREANS WERE IDENTIFIED AS: HWAG CHANG YEB, PRESIDENT OF THE POPULAR ASSEMBLY; KAM YANG SU, A DEPUTY; KIM CHANG GUK AND YUNG TE UNG, TRANSLATORS (ALL NAMES EMERGED DIFFERENTLY IN EACH NEWS APPEARANCE). THE DELEGATION VISITED THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND HELD CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THAT BODY. THE KOREAN ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY'S WISH TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR. HIS HOSTS REPLIED THAT SUCH A MATTER WAS OUTSIDE THE PURVIEW OF THE SALVADORAN LEGISLATURE, BEING A MATTER TO DISCUSS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE SECOND NORTHKOREAN MISSION TO VISIT EL SALVADOR IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS. THE FIRST, IN NOV 1975, WAS BILLED AS A TRADE PROMOTION EXERCISE (SAN SALVADOR 4350). IT RECEIVED THE SAME FRIENDLY BUT CORRECT TREATMENT. A POLOFF SPOKE WITH A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S LEADERSHIP RIGHT AFTER HE LEFT THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NORTH KOREAN VISITORS. HE SAID PERMISSION FOR THE VISIT HAD BEEN SOLICITED A MONTH BEFORE THROUGH THE SALVADORAN UN MISSION IN NY. HE CHARACTERIZED THE WHOLE THING AS STRICTLY A "COURTESY CALL", AND APPEARED GENUINELY SURPRISED TO HEAR OF NORTH KOREA'S INITIATIVES IN THE UN AND OTHER FORA. GIVEN THE LEVEL OF INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE WITHIN THE GOES, ESPECIALLY THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, OF SUCH DISTANT MATTERS AS THE POLITICS OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE NORTH KOREANS GAINED MORE FROM THEIR VISIT THAN A FLEETING EXPOSURE TO SALVADORAN MARIMBA MUSIC.
CAMPBELL

CONFIDENTIAL

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